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PRESS RELEASE

Keep off the roads – PJV re-emphasises road safety to Porgera schools

PORT MORESBY, 28 APRIL, 2019, 1300HRS: Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) has again reiterated to schools in Porgera, especially those along the Porgera-Laiagam highway of the importance of road safety and to keep clear of the roads.

PJV Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) Manager Meck Minnala reiterated these to students at the Tumundan Primary School located, just past Mulitaka along the highway.

Mr Minnala led a CRE team that visited the school on 4 March this year, to award one of the winners of the road safety poster competition that PJV launched in schools last year.

The poster competition followed a road safety awareness program conducted into six primary schools along the corridor of the road from Laiagam to Tumundan.

Students were encouraged to participate in the competition depicting messages and issues on road safety.

The winner at Tumundan was Thomas Paul, while the rest were Simon Jackson at Pokolip; Jackobeth Andrew, Samuel David, and Rebecca Moses (Koemale); Mathius Fergie and Wilson Kevin (Kasap); Nancy Puluk (Yakenda); and Rebecca Amos, Kevin Lote, Jalyne Ronald, and Prisila John (Aiyak).

Each winner was awarded a K200 stationary shopping voucher while their schools received consolation prizes consisting of basic stationaries and sporting equipment.

Mr Minnala reminded the students of the dangers of playing on the road and also to value life.

He said large trucks carrying mine supplies including dangerous goods were always on the road and sometimes there could be a fault with a truck or with the driver and so children should completely keep off the road.

“...sometimes drivers behind the vehicles might be tired, intoxicated or have other things on their mind and will not concentrate on their driving and these can lead to accidents. Do not assume that a driver behind a vehicle on the road sees everything in front of them when driving. Stay clear off the road,” Mr Minnala said.

He spoke particularly of the dangers of cyanide which was transported along the highway to the mine site and the dangers it can pose.

He explained that cyanide was a dangerous chemical used to extract gold from ore at the mine processing plant in a very controlled environment by highly trained and skilled people.

The handling, storage and transportation of cyanide, he explained was also done by trained individuals in compliance to standards and guidelines set by the International Cyanide Management Code for the Gold mining industry.

“So...do not go near any bogged or capsized container trucks along the road if you see one...do not even attempt to run after these trucks on the road. Keep away from the roads and keep the highway clear and free from obstruction,” Mr Minnala said.

The posters were judged by a PJV panel that looked at quality of artwork depicting messages relevant to road safety.

The competition continues this year.

Ends//

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”)– through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited – which owns 95 percent participating interest in the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV). The remaining 5% in PJV is owned by Mineral Resource Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

The Porgera Mine employs over 3,300 Papua New Guineans, and over the life of the mine has produced more than 20 million ounces of gold and contributed approximately 10% of PNG’s total annual exports.



Mr Minnala presents a voucher to one of the winners at Aiyak.



PJV CRE Supervisor Lanyata Kelata (left) and colleague Officer – Highway, Kando Kayari display dangerous goods’ safety signs for students at Tumundan.



The PJV CRE team addressing students at Tumundan.



Mr Minnala addressing students at Yakenda.

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